

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02833 261749Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04

EB-07 COME-00 SAM-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-02 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9748

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, GW

SUBJECT: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO ROME;
BILATERAL QUESTIONS

1. FONMIN GENSCHER'S VISIT TO ROME FEBRUARY 20 AND 21 REPORTEDLY INVOLVED ONLY TWO BILATERAL ISSUES OF ANY CONSEQUENCE: THE ITALIAN CHOICE OF A COLOR TV SYSTEM, AND ITALIAN EMIGRANT LABORERS IN GERMANY.

2. WHEREAS FRG EMBASSY IN ROME HAD BEEN IN HOPES THAT GENSCHER WOULD PRESS THE GOI TO ACCEPT THE FRG PAL (VERSUS THE FRENCH SECAM) COLOR TV SYSTEM, GENSCHER REPORTEDLY FAILED TO DO SO. INSTEAD, HE ACCEPTED FONMIN RUMOR'S REQUEST THAT (YET ANOTHER) FRG TECHNICAL TEAM BE SENT TO ITALY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION FURTHER. COMMENT: LOCAL FRG OFFICERS COMMENT: "IN HEAVEN'S NAME, WHAT MORE INFORMATION COULD THEY WANT AFTER TEN YEARS OF STUDY?"

3. TO RUMOR'S QUESTION AS TO THE FUTURE OF ITALIAN LABORERS IN THE FRG, GENSCHER GAVE AN OPTIMAL RESPONSE. HE REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS TO PRESERVE JOBS BY ASSURING THE HEALTH OF THE GERMAN ECONOMY AND THE NECESSARY REFLATIONARY STEPS ARE ALREADY BEING TAKEN. HE ADDED THAT,
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PAGE 02 ROME 02833 261749Z

OF ALL SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN GROUPS IN GERMANY, THE ITALIANS

ARE BEST POSITIONED. UNDER EC RULES, ITALIAN LABORERS CAN
RECEIVE FULL SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE FRG EVEN IF THEY RETURN
TO ITALY, AND CAN RETURN WHEN THEY CHOOSE. SUCH GROUPS AS,
FOR EXAMPLE, YUGOSLAVS AND SPANIARDS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY
FREE TO RETURN, ONCE DEPARTED. IN FACT, SAID GENSCHER,
ITALY MIGHT EVEN FIND A NET PROFIT IN THE SITUATION BY
INCREASING ITS LABOR EXPORTS ONCE THE GERMANY ECONOMY PERKS
UP. VOLPE

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